

Announcements

The Western Thoracic Surgical Association

The WTSA 2013 Annual Meeting in Review

The 39th Annual Meeting of The Western Thoracic Surgical Association was held at The Coeur d'Alene, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, June 26-29, 2013. The meeting included oral presentations of 22 original papers; panel discussions; 2 postgraduate courses; and 23 additional papers presented during concurrent forums in the disciplines of adult cardiac, general thoracic, and congenital heart disease. The Annual Meeting attracted nearly 200 physicians and allied health professionals and provided an outstanding educational program with ample opportunities for open discussion, scientific debate, and the collegiality characteristic of the WTSA Annual Meeting.

Educational highlights of the program included the C. Walton Lillehei Point/Counterpoint Session, entitled "Time Out: Lists and Protocols Are the Best Method to Mitigate Human Error in the Hospital and Operating Room" and moderated by Thomas A. Burdon with Matthew S. Slater arguing in favor of lists and protocols as the best method and Thoralf M. Sundt against. In addition, the Presidential Address, given by John C. Chen, was entitled "Winning the HITECH Challenge."

A Breakfast Session on "CT Screening for Lung Cancer" was presented by Joshua R. Sonett, followed by 2 Postgraduate Courses. The first, titled "Medical Miracles Cost

Money" and sponsored by White Memorial Medical Center and Foundation, Lyman A. Brewer III, Fund, featured Geoffrey Sewell from the Hawaii Permanente Medical Group in Honolulu, Hawaii. The second Postgraduate Course explored "How to Be Successful in the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Movement," with Francis J. Crosson, J. Scott Millikan, and Dominic J. Tedesco as the panel faculty. Dr Crosson also led a Spouse Forum that asked, "Would You Encourage Your Children or Grandchildren to Go into Medicine?"

This year's "Controversies in Thoracic Surgery" session debated whether "Studies Drawn From Large Administrative Databases Are Not Clinically Relevant." It was moderated by Paul H. Schipper, with Karl F. Welke arguing that they are clinically relevant and Brian L. Reemtsen taking the opposing viewpoint.

Several awards were presented during the meeting. The Donald B. Doty Educational Award was given to Winfield J. Wells, from Children's Hospital Los Angeles, for his proposal, "The Application of Machine Learning to Cardiac Surgery Outcome Analysis"; the Norman E. Shumway Award for the Best Paper co-authored by a WTSA member was awarded to Ahmad Y. Sheikh of Stanford University for his presentation "An Individual's Frame of Reference Influences Ability to Determine Accurate Needle Angles"; and the Samson Resident Prize Essay Award was given to Janet Edwards of the University of Calgary for "A Novel Approach for the Accurate Prediction of Thoracic Surgery Workforce Requirements."



2012-2013 WTSA Council: (seated, left to right) Joseph C. Cleveland, Jr, John C. Chen, Thomas A. Burdon, and Patricia A. Thistlethwaite; (standing, left to right) Ross M. Bremner, Robert C. Robbins, James I. Fann, and Arthur N. Thomas; (missing) Lawrence H. Cohn, John D. Mitchell, Mark T. Metzдорff, and Marvin Pomerantz.

The 2013-2014 Officers elected during the meeting include: President Thomas A. Burdon, Stanford, California; Vice President Michael S. Mulligan, Seattle, Washington; Secretary Patricia A. Thistlethwaite, La Jolla, California; Treasurer Joseph C. Cleveland, Jr, Aurora, Colorado; Councillor John C. Chen, Honolulu, Hawaii; Councillor-at-Large Sean Grondin, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Historian Marvin Pomerantz, Tucson, Arizona; and Editor Lawrence H. Cohn, Boston, Massachusetts.

Also during the 39th Annual Meeting, 19 new members were elected to WTSA membership—15 to Active membership and 4 to the new Candidate membership category: John Armitage, Springfield, Oregon; Leah Backhus, Seattle, Washington; Michael P. Caskey, Phoenix, Arizona; Jeanne H. Cleveland, St. Louis, Missouri; Eric Devaney, San Diego, California; Robert L. Hooker, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Michal Hubka, Seattle, Washington (Candidate); Joseph Huh, Sacramento, California; Tara Karamlou, San Francisco, California (Candidate); Murray H. Kwon, Los Angeles, California; Tuan T. Lam, Long Beach, California; Stephen H. McKellar, Salt Lake City, Utah (Candidate); Robert A. Meguid, Aurora, Colorado (Candidate); Alan H. Menkis, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Robert E. Merritt, Stanford, California; Daniel P. Pellegrini, San Francisco, California; Nicholas G. Smedira, Cleveland, Ohio; and Daniel A. Velez, Phoenix, Arizona.

Applications for Membership

The WTSA is now accepting Applications for Membership online for Active as well as Candidate membership status. Visit the WTSA Web site at www.westernthoracic.org to read the complete membership eligibility requirements and to initiate an online application.

Active Member

\$325.00 annually, plus \$50.00 initiation fee

Applicant must meet all membership criteria, including but not limited to:

- Reside within or have completed a cardiothoracic residency training program within the geographic limits of the Association.
- Have been engaged in the practice of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery for at least three years following completion of postgraduate training. If a candidate completed his/her thoracic surgical residency in an insti-

tution within the geographic limits of the Association, such completion may count toward one of the three years of practice.

- Have a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in his or her respective state or province, and have a current appointment on the surgical staff of a hospital with no reportable action pending which could adversely affect such applicant's staff privileges at any hospital.

Candidate Member

\$100.00 annually

Applicant must meet all membership criteria, including but not limited to:

- Be matched or enrolled in either a cardiothoracic surgery education program accredited by the Residency Review Committee for Thoracic Surgery under the authority of the ACGME or a program approved for cardiothoracic surgery education by the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada—or their equivalency—from within the Association's geographic limits. Individuals who have completed their education in one of the above programs and are in the process of acquiring certification in cardiothoracic surgery by either the American Board of Thoracic Surgery or the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada also are eligible to apply for Candidate membership.

An application must include the following uploads: a photo; a complete curriculum vitae with bibliography; and, for Active applicants, the 3 most significant articles that s/he personally wrote. The application must be completed and submitted online by March 1, 2014, and all support letter(s) (three for Active applicants, one for Candidates) uploaded by that applicant's sponsor(s) by March 31, 2014, in order for the applicant to be considered for election to membership at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

WTSA 40th Annual Meeting

Save the Date!

June 25-28, 2014

The St. Regis Monarch Beach

Dana Point, California